



The Passenger Pigeon

The Newsletter of the Cincinnati Bird Club

April 2007 Vol 43 No. 4

April Bird Club Events

March Meeting:

Ron Austing presents: "Searching for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas." Thursday, April 19. 7:00 p.m. Sharon Woods Visitor Center.

This month's program features the return of one of Cincinnati's most noted photographers, Ron Austing. Ron was one of the founding members of the Bird Club, and has given many programs for us over the years. Besides being an outstanding photographer and videographer, Ron is acknowledged to be one of the most skilled birders in our area.

This year Ron's program will be about his experiences searching for the The Lord God Bird, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, in Arkansas, and a new photography technique, digiscoping for bird photography. At last year's program,

Ron was very excited about looking for ivory-billed and a new technique he recently tried, digiscoping. Come and hear and see what will surely be fascinating discussions and presentations at the usual time and place, the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at Sharon Woods Visitor Center.

April Field Trips (And one in early May)

Location: Spring Valley WA & Environs
Date & Time: Saturday, April 21 2007, 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Darlena Graham, (859) 341-4893, darlena@fuse.net

Join Darlena and other members of the CBC for what should be a great birding trip. We expect to find a diverse number of species due to the varied habitats in this area and the time of year, as spring migration will be well under way. Darlena plans to

meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Caesar Creek State Park swimming beach and give that area a good look before moving over to Spring Valley. We will then take a walk around the loop trail at Spring Valley, which leads through marsh and woodlands. Afterwards Darlena will probably take a look at the nearby Roxanna gravel pit, which has been very good as of late. Darlena expects that we will return home by mid-afternoon, so pack a lunch and plan accordingly. Many breeding songbirds will have arrived by this date and a number of early migrants should also be found. Rails, bitterns, shorebirds and other marsh birds are expected. Terns, loons, waterfowl and several species of raptors should also be seen. Late April is a great time to be out birding, so consider joining us for what we hope will be a great day.

To get to the Caesar Creek State Park swimming beach from Cincinnati, take I-71 north to the State Route 73 exit # 45. Turn left (west) onto Rt. 73 and go about 5 miles. After crossing the Rt. 73 Bridge over Caesar Creek Lake, turn right at the State Park entrance and follow the signs to the swimming beach parking lot. Feel free to contact Darlena for any questions.

Location: Miami Whitewater Park
Date: Saturday, April 28 2007, 7:00 a.m.
Leader: Ned Keller, (513) 941-6497, keller@one.net

Ned's plan is to first bird a couple of hours in the wooded sections of the park, when songbirds are at peak song and then move over to the wetlands around 10:00 a.m. where we will take a leisurely walk around the marsh. Breeding warblers and other songbirds will be

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in good numbers and on territory, and while the date is a little early, there should be plenty of migrant warblers and other songbirds around. Rails, bitterns, shorebirds and other marsh birds are expected at the wetlands. Considering the time of year and the varied habitats that Miami Whitewater Park has to offer, a wide diversity of species is likely to be found on this trip, so don't miss the fun and we hope to see you there.

Meet Ned in the Timberlakes parking lot in Miami Whitewater at 7:00 a.m. To get to Miami Whitewater and Timberlakes from I-275, take the Dry Fork Rd. exit # 3. Go north on Dry Fork Rd. about one mile to the West Rd. intersection. Turn right onto West Rd. and go a short distance, cross the bridge and turn left into the park. Stay on this park road for about a mile. When the road goes up a hill, the Timberlakes parking lot is well marked and on your left at the top of a hill. Contact Ned if you have any questions.

Location: Shawnee Lookout Park & The Oxbow
Date & Time: Saturday, May 5 2007, 7:30 a.m.

Leader: Bill Stanley, (513) 724-2663, tyrannus@fuse.net

Migrant warblers and other songbirds should be near peak for this field trip. Bill's plan is to take a leisurely walk around several locations in and around Shawnee Lookout during the morning and then afterwards take a side trip over to the adjacent Oxbow to see if we can find any shorebirds or waterbirds there. The trip will end around 1:00 p.m. Spring migration will be in full swing and just about anything might be found. Join Bill for what should be a great day to be out and about.

The meeting time and location for this trip is 7:30 a.m. in the Shawnee Lookout lower boat ramp parking lot. To get there from I-275, take the Kilby Rd. exit # 21 and turn right (south). Go south about a mile to US 50 and turn right. Go about 1.5 miles to the traffic light (at Elizabethtown) at Lawrenceburg Rd and turn left. Just across the Great Miami River Bridge (aka Lost Bridge) turn right and go a little over a mile to the Shawnee Lookout Park entrance. Be sure to turn right here and go

down the hill to the lower boat ramp parking lot. Contact Bill if you have any questions.

2007 Oxbow Birdathon

The Oxbow Inc. annual Birdathon is fast approaching. We welcome and encourage your participation in this fund raising and spring birding event. The Birdathon has become an exciting local birding tradition in our area since it first began in 1988. In fact this is the Birdathon's 20th Anniversary and we hope you will participate and help make this year a memorable affair. As in past years the Birdathon will be held over a two-day period during the peak of spring migration beginning at 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 11th and ending at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 12th and will culminate in a grand tally pizza party to be held at the Sharon Centre in Sharon Woods. Note the change in venue from last years Winton Woods location. Over the 24-hour period, teams or individuals will try to find as many species of birds as possible and collect pledges for each species found. Fifty percent of the pledges will be contributed to Oxbow Inc., to

be used specifically for improving bird habitat and birding access in the Oxbow area. The other fifty percent is contributed to the organization of each team's choice. All Oxbow Inc. contributions to this event are tax deductible. Last year's effort raised over \$6,000.00 for Oxbow Inc. and is being used towards projects that will create a seasonally controlled wetland and another to control water levels in Osprey Lake during fall shorebird season.

We view this as much more than a friendly birding competition. We see this fund-raising event as a community celebration of local birding and conservation and as an opportunity to raise much needed funds to complete a number of bird habitat management and birder accessibility projects we have planned in the Oxbow area, as well as to raise funds for other area conservation and environmental groups. This is a chance

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for like-minded individuals and organizations to come together in the spirit of camaraderie for a common purpose and to make a difference. Anyone can participate on any level. There are several competitive categories one can choose from, or you are welcome to participate as a non-competitor in any manner you would like. The bottom line is that we will raise some money for worthwhile causes and have fun doing it during a fantastic time of the year. As a Cincinnati Bird Club member, we really feel your participation will elevate this event. Bird a lot or a little, raise a lot or a little money, what's important to us is your presence. We hope you will consider participating. More information can be found in the Oxbow Inc., newsletter or website www.oxbowinc.org

If you are interested and would like to register as a team or an individual, use the enclosed Participation Form. If you would like further information, feel free to email me at jaystenger@cinci.rr.com or call me at (513) 522-8147.

—Jay Stenger, Oxbow Birdathon Committee

Birdathon Participation Form

Oxbow, Inc. wants to have more birdwatchers participate in the Birdathon. While there is a competition for the most species seen in the Birdathon area during the 24 hours of the contest, you don't have to compete at all and can participate as a non-competitive individual or team. There are several categories from which you can choose. You do not even have to leave your own house. Here are some of the categories of competition:

- Most Species by a Team (most overall species by a group)
- Most Species by an Individual (most overall species by an individual)
- Most Species in a Back Yard (most species observed from one yard)
- Most Species One State (most species by state, either Ohio, Indiana or Kentucky)
- Most Species One County (most species in any one county, ex: Hamilton)
- Most Species In One Location (recorded in one defined area, ex: The Oxbow)
- Most Species Non-Fossil Fuel (recorded without using any gasoline)
- Most Species Big Sit (recorded from one fixed 30 x 30 foot spot)
- Most Species Family (most species by a family, parent/guardian and at least one child)
- Most Species Under Age 20 (most species by a group 19 & under, 1 adult allowed)
- Most Funds Raised by a Team
- Most Funds Raised by an Individual
- Most Funds raised by Persons Under 20 Years Old

Remember the purpose of the Birdathon is to raise money for improving Oxbow habitat and Oxbow accessibility projects. The way to do it is to have fun birding!

I want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon. Please send an entry form to:

Team Name

Contact Name

Additional Team Members

Phone

Address

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc, 9761 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231



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Are Your Dues Due?

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the September 2006 - May 2007 birding year, please fill out the form below and mail it in along with your membership fees.

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.cincinnatibirds.com/birdclub/index.php

Bird Club Membership

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

_____ Individual \$12.00 _____ Family \$15.00 _____ Student \$6.00

**Make your check payable to Cincinnati Bird Club, and mail to:
Peg Gatch, 11 Mound Avenue, Milford, OH 45150**
